I. The Enlightenment: The "Age of Reason" (1600s–1700s)

The Enlightenment was a **secular movement** (meaning it was removed from and often against religious control) that emphasized the use of **logic, observation, and rationality** to understand human institutions. It was a departure from centuries where religion was the central authority in Europe.

1. The Pioneers of Political Thought

- **John Locke (1632–1704):** An English philosopher who argued that all men are born with **natural rights**: life, liberty, and property. He proposed the **"Consent of the Governed,"** suggesting that government authority comes from the people. In his 1690 work, *Two Treatises on Government*, he argued for a "social contract" where the government's sole purpose is to protect these rights. If a ruler fails this contract, the people have a duty to overthrow them.
- **Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679):** Often called the father of modern political thought, Hobbes held a darker view of humanity than Locke. In *Leviathan*, he argued that humans are naturally selfish, greedy, and violent. To escape a life that is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short," people must surrender their freedoms to an **absolute sovereign** who maintains order through harsh rule.
- **Baron de Montesquieu (1689–1755):** In his 1748 book *The Spirit of the Laws*, he argued that to prevent tyranny, government power must be divided. He proposed a **Separation of Powers** into three branches: **Legislative** (makes laws), **Executive** (enforces laws), and **Judicial** (interprets laws/determines validity).
- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778):** In *The Social Contract* (1762), he argued that people are inherently good but corrupted by private property. He advocated for the **"General Will,"** where laws are created by the population themselves to achieve true freedom.
- **Voltaire:** A French philosopher who fiercely opposed state-mandated religion, which he blamed for centuries of intolerance and conflict (like the Thirty Years' War). He was a champion of **freedom of expression** and spoke out against **censorship**—the removal of

information thought to be harmful—famously vowing to defend to the death a person's right to speak even if he disagreed with them.

2. Social Reform and Justice

- **Cesare Beccaria (1738–1794):** A criminologist who challenged the "off with his head" mentality of monarchs. In *On Crimes and Punishments* (1764), he condemned torture and the death penalty, asserting that the **accused have rights**, should receive fair trials, and that punishment should fit the crime.
- **Mary Wollstonecraft (1759–1797):** A British writer who argued that women were not inherently less smart than men, but appeared so due to a lack of education. In *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, she argued for women's right to be **rational and free**.
- **The Salons:** Because governments and the church often used censorship, imprisonment, or death to stop Enlightenment ideas, thinkers met in **salons**—private social gatherings in homes. These were often hosted by women, giving them a rare opportunity to influence public opinion and the "Age of Reason".

II. Age of Revolutions and Nationalism (1750–1900)

Enlightenment ideas fueled a "Desire for Change" across the Atlantic, leading to violent overthrows of traditional monarchies.

1. The American Revolution (1776–1783)

- **Causes:** Following the **Seven Years War** (1756–1763), Great Britain was in debt and began heavily taxing the colonies (Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Tea Act). Colonists were outraged by **taxation without representation** in Parliament and King George III's **Proclamation of 1763**, which forbade settlement west of the Appalachians.
- **The War:** Conflict began at **Lexington and Concord**. The colonies formed the Continental Army under **George Washington**. The **Battle of Saratoga** (1777) was a major turning point, leading to French reinforcements.
- **Legacy:** The new republic protected natural rights through the **Declaration of Independence** and the **Bill of Rights**. It utilized

Montesquieu's separation of powers and Beccaria's protections against "cruel and unusual punishment" (8th Amendment).

2. The French Revolution (1789–1799)

- **Societal Division:** France was divided into **Three Estates**: The First (Clergy - 1% of pop.), the Second (Nobility - 2% of pop.), and the Third (everyone else - 97% of pop.). The Third Estate paid almost all taxes while having no voice in government.
- **The Outbreak:** King Louis XVI (a "feeble" leader) and Marie Antoinette ("Madam Deficit") drove France into bankruptcy. The Third Estate broke away to form the **National Assembly**, taking the **Tennis Court Oath** to write a new constitution. On July 14, 1789, a mob **stormed the Bastille** (a prison) to find weapons.
- **The Radical Phase:** The revolution turned violent in 1792 with the **Reign of Terror**. Led by **Maximilien Robespierre** and the **Committee of Public Safety**, thousands were executed by guillotine, including the King and Queen.
- **Napoleon Bonaparte:** A popular general who took power in a **coup d'état** in 1799. He crowned himself Emperor in 1804. His **Napoleonic Code** spread Enlightenment principles like legal equality and religious toleration across Europe. He was eventually defeated at the **Battle of Waterloo** (1815) and exiled to St. Helena.

3. Revolutions in the Americas and Beyond

- **Haitian Revolution (1792):** A slave revolt led by **Toussaint Louverture** that became the only successful slave rebellion in history, debunking theories of black inferiority.
- **Latin American Revolutions (1819–1830):** Driven by **nationalism** (identity based on race/culture rather than a monarch), Creole leaders like **Simon Bolivar** and **Jose de San Martin** liberated South America from Spanish rule, creating states like Gran Colombia.
- **The Ottoman Empire:** Attempted the **Tanzimat Reforms** (1839–1876) to create a unified "Ottomanism" and grant civil liberties to non-Muslims, but the movement failed to stop nationalist movements in the Balkans.

III. The Industrial Revolution and Capitalism

1. Economic Theories

- **Adam Smith and Capitalism:** Codified in *The Wealth of Nations* (1776). He proposed a **Free Market** system where competition, not government/guilds, determines prices. His concept of the **"Invisible Hand"** suggests that the self-interest of suppliers to make a profit naturally meets the needs of society.
- **Laissez-faire:** A market completely free of government or guild interference.

2. The First and Second Industrial Revolutions

- **Why Britain?** Britain had coal, iron, rivers, and a government that protected private property.
- **The First Phase (1750–1850):** Focused on **steam, coal, and textiles**. Inventions like the **Steam Engine** (James Watt) and **Spinning Jenny** mechanized production.
- **The Second Phase (1870–1914):** Focused on **electricity, petroleum, and chemicals**. Germany and the US led this era, utilizing the **Bessemer process** to produce cheap steel and implementing **interchangeable parts** for easy repair.
- **Transportation: Railroads** revolutionized travel and forced the standardization of time. **Canals** (Suez, Panama, Erie) created direct routes for steamboats.

3. Social Impact of Industrialization

- **New Classes:** The **Middle Class** (factory owners, bankers) grew in power, often clashing with the old land-owning nobility. The **Working Class** (unskilled laborers) suffered in dirty, dangerous factories with 14-hour workdays and 17-year lifespans in some urban slums.
- **The Family:** Men were increasingly gone at work. In the middle class, a working wife was a sign of "failure" for the husband.
- **Marxism/Communism:** Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' 1848 *Communist Manifesto* argued that history is a struggle over private property. Marx called for a **violent proletariat (working class) revolution** to seize the means of production from the bourgeoisie (owners) and eliminate all borders and private property.

IV. Imperialism and Global Dominance (1800s)

1. Methods of Control

- **New Imperialism:** Industrialized nations used their technological advantage (bolt-action rifles, machine guns, steamships) to conquer the world for raw materials and new markets.
- **Social Darwinism:** The pseudoscientific belief in "survival of the fittest" applied to races, used to justify conquest as a natural process of the "strong" taking over the "weak." This was often called **"The White Man's Burden"**.
- **Economic Imperialism:** Companies like the **United Fruit Company** colluded with local dictators to get tax exemptions and cheap labor.

2. Regional Imperialism

- **Africa:** The **"Scramble for Africa"** saw Europeans conquer the interior after **quinine** was used to fight malaria. The **Berlin Conference** (1884) divided Africa among European powers with no African input. **King Leopold II** of Belgium ran a brutal private colony in the **Congo**, committing barbaric acts like removing limbs for missed quotas.
- **China:** Britain addicted the Chinese to opium to force trade. The **Opium Wars** (1839–1860) resulted in China being forced to open ports like Hong Kong. Later, China was divided into **"Spheres of Influence"** where foreign powers held exclusive trading rights.
- **India:** After the **1857 Sepoy Mutiny**, the British government took direct control of India, a period known as the **British Raj**.

3. Non-Western Responses

- **Meiji Restoration (Japan):** After **Commodore Matthew Perry** forced Japan open in 1853, Japan overthrew its shogunate and rapidly industrialized by mimicking Western science, military, and economics.
- **Self-Strengthening Movement (China):** An attempt to buy Western weapons while keeping Chinese culture the same; it was considered a failure after Japan defeated China in 1895.

- **Muhammad Ali (Egypt):** Established Egypt as an autonomous state and nationalized land for cotton to fund industrialization.

V. The 20th Century: Science and Global Conflict

1. Scientific Shattering

- **Relativity:** Albert Einstein proved that time and space are not constant but **relative** to speed and gravity.
- **Quantum Mechanics:** Max Planck and others discovered that we cannot completely "master" the randomness of the universe at a subatomic level.

2. World War I (1914–1918)

- **Causes (MAIN): M**ilitarism, **A**lliances, **I**mperialism, and **N**ationalism.
- **The Spark:** The assassination of Austrian Archduke **Franz Ferdinand** by the Serbian "Black Hand".
- **Trench Warfare:** A war of attrition on the Western Front characterized by machine guns, poison gas, and "trench foot".
- **Total War:** Entire populations were mobilized; governments rationed food and used **propaganda** to demonize enemies.
- **The End:** The **Treaty of Versailles** (1919) humiliated Germany, forcing them to pay $400 billion in reparations and take full blame for the war.

3. The Interwar Period and WWII

- **The Russian Revolution (1917):** Driven by "Peace, Land, and Bread," **Vladimir Lenin** and the **Bolsheviks** overthrew the Tsar and established the USSR. **Joseph Stalin** later took power, using **collectivization** (leading to the Holodomor famine in Ukraine) and **Great Purges** to maintain control.
- **Fascism:** A right-wing ideology that emphasized nationalism, anti-communism, and strict state control. **Adolf Hitler** (Germany) and **Benito Mussolini** (Italy) rose to power as **Totalitarians**.

- **The Great Depression:** Caused by overproduction, bank failures, and the 1929 **Stock Market Crash**. It led to **Keynesian Economics**, where the government creates demand through public works.
- **World War II (1939–1945):** Began with Hitler's invasion of Poland. Characterized by **Blitzkrieg** (lightning war) and the **Holocaust** (the murder of 6 million Jews and 5 million others). The war ended after the US dropped atomic bombs (The **Manhattan Project**) on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**.

VI. The Cold War and Globalization (1945–Present)

- **Cold War (1947–1991):** A struggle between US Capitalism and Soviet Communism defined by **Mutually Assured Destruction** and **Proxy Wars** (Korea, Vietnam, Soviet-Afghan War).
- **Decolonization:** Former colonies gained independence. Examples include **India** (Gandhi’s non-violent civil disobedience), **Vietnam** (Ho Chi Minh), and **Ghana** (Kwame Nkrumah).
- **Communist China:** Mao Zedong led the **Great Leap Forward** (causing 20–50 million deaths) and the **Cultural Revolution**. Later, **Deng Xiaoping** introduced free-market reforms but maintained authoritarian control, as seen in the **Tiananmen Square Massacre** (1889).
- **Globalization:** The integration of world economies through organizations like the **EU, WTO, and NAFTA**. It has led to a **"Knowledge Economy"** in developed nations and manufacturing-based economies in developing ones.
- **Human Rights:** The **United Nations** (1945) issued the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** in 1948. Movements like **First and Second-Wave Feminism** and the **Civil Rights Movement** (MLK Jr.) have significantly advanced social progress globally.